

AT THE FEDERAL CAPITAL.

SUBJECTS OF PRESENT DISCUSSION.

CONTINUED DEMOCRATIC DENUNCIATION OF THE ALLEGED BARGAIN WITH MR. MAHONE—MR. CONKLING'S SUPPORTERS—DEMOCRATS WORRIED ABOUT MISSOURI.

The political debate in the United States Senate was continued yesterday. Democratic Senators wasted time in denouncing the alleged Republican bargain with Mr. Mahone. Public interest in the debate shows perceptible signs of flagging. A friend of Senator Conkling furnishes a list of Republican Senators who, he says, will vote against the confirmation of Judge Robertson. The result of the spring elections in Missouri has caused grave alarm among Southern Democratic leaders.

THE BOURBONS' LAST DITCH.

WHAT THE DEMOCRATIC SENATORS SAY THEY ARE FIGHTING FOR—EFFECT OF MAHONE'S SUCCESS THROUGHOUT THE SOUTH THE DISMAL DEBATE LIKELY TO CONTINUE.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

WASHINGTON, April 12.—The Senate did not elect officers to-day. The only business transacted was the passage of a resolution offered by General Burnside requesting the President to communicate any facts in his possession concerning the arrest of Michael Boyton by the British Government. The stream of talk was turned on by Senator Beck, who consumed more than an hour in his denunciation of the "bargain" made by the Republicans with General Mahone. This is probably the most threadbare subject that ever occupied the attention of the United States Senate, and Mr. Beck failed to make it interesting. In the course of his remarks, Mr. Beck expressed regret that the proprieties of Senatorial debate would not permit him to characterize the "coalition" in the language which he thinks it deserves. He expressed a desire that Mr. Dawes would go with him to Virginia next September and discuss the question with him before the people of that State.

In a conversation with a TRIBUNE correspondent, later in the day, General Mahone, referring to Mr. Beck's desire to discuss the question before the people of Virginia, remarked: "I should be very glad to have him come to Virginia and do that. I will guarantee him good audiences and he would find Virginians able and ready to discuss this question or any other with him. He would not need to bring an antagonist with him; he would find plenty of Virginians ready to meet him."

It had been extensively advertised that Mr. Beck would devote his speech to a history of the reconstruction measures and of the "carpet-bag" governments in the Southern States. He did intend this, but it is understood that some of the cooler Democrats prevailed upon him to forbear. As one of them said to a TRIBUNE correspondent to-day: "We ought not to allow ourselves to be drawn into any argument with the Republicans on such issues as reconstruction or repudiation. They always get the advantage of us in a debate on those subjects and succeed in diverting attention from the merits of the real questions in dispute. I think we ought to confine ourselves closely to exposing and denouncing this infamous bargain with Mahone. That is a rather narrow issue to be sure, but it is about the only one which it is safe for us to discuss now, and therefore regretted Pugh's speech to-day. He went too far, I think, in discussing and denouncing reconstruction, and has laid himself open to attack from Republicans."

Everybody who took the trouble to listen to Senator Pugh's bitter speech will feel the force and justness of this criticism from one of Senator Pugh's party and personal friends. Senator Saunders delivered a short speech, and then—after some wild filibustering by the Democrats—the Senate adjourned at an unusually early hour. Senators on both sides have grown weary of what appears to be an interminable struggle. Public interest in the debates has completely died out, and the dreary speeches are addressed to empty galleries day after day.

"It is a pretty hard case," said a Democratic Senator to-day. "The people think we are fighting for a few offices, and the Democratic newspapers are abusing us for our obstinacy. The Republicans are in the same fix, and some of the Republican newspapers are scolding them for the same reason." It is interesting to hear avowed the motives which govern the Democrats in the present struggle. Some of these were tersely described by a prominent Senator from a Southern State in the course of a conversation with a TRIBUNE correspondent to-day. "We would not continue this struggle twenty-four hours," he said, "if nothing were involved except the possession of a few offices; but it means more than that. If the Mahone movement in Virginia succeeds, we may as well make up our minds to surrender the political control of the State to the Southern States. Mahone's success will make political rebellion and treason respectable in the South, and Mahone will spring up in North Carolina, in South Carolina, in Georgia, in Alabama, in Mississippi. The very existence of the Democratic party in some States is at stake in this contest. Disaffected Democrats in every Southern State are watching the struggle with eager interest, and Mahone's success will give them a new discipline the moment they see the Democratic party overthrown in Virginia. It is a hard necessity, but we are forced to begin here on the floor of the Senate the struggle to retain the State of Mahone in Virginia is irretrievably lost to Democracy."

The Bourbon Senators seize, and eagerly believe, every story asserting that Senator Mahone is in Virginia in vain. Speaking of some of those tales to-day, General Mahone said: "They are all false so far as I know. The story they tell about my brother and brother-in-law having deserted my political fortunes is a fair sample of the kind of lies they invent and believe to keep their courage up. I never had a brother. My brother-in-law—the only one I have—lives in Southampton County, about fifty miles below Richmond. I have heard from him in warm approval of my course, and received positive assurances that my friends in that part of the State are as enthusiastic as ever. I have no fears that any of the anti-Bourbons will desert me. Our friends in Virginia have been too bitter and personal to allow any fusion of the Bourbon and anti-Bourbon wings of the party now."

Democratic Senators declare that they are constantly receiving letters from leading and influential constituents begging them to maintain their ground. Republican Senators, who have recently returned from visits to their homes, all say that their constituents bid them never to surrender. Under such circumstances the prospect of an early cessation of the present struggle cannot be considered very bright.

THE REFUNDING PLAN.

WASHINGTON, April 12.—At the Capitol to-day there were many expressions of approval by Senators of both parties regarding the policy initiated yesterday by Secretary Windom. Senator Frye said he went this morning to the Treasury Department and introduced to the Secretary the president of two banks in Maine. These banks own considerable amounts of five per cent and six per cent bonds, and the presidents said they were perfectly willing to surrender their bonds and take one-half per cent in exchange in accordance with the offer of yesterday. Senator Ingalls expressed the opinion that the Secretary of the Treasury has adopted a policy which will enable him to take care of both the five and the six per cent Congress shall assemble in December. A TRIBUNE correspondent asked a number of Senators whether they were in favor of the refunding plan of the Secretary's action, and did not elicit a favorable criticism.

CURRENT TOPICS AT THE CAPITAL.

DEMOCRATS ANXIOUS ABOUT MISSOURI.

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, April 12, 1881.

Many Southern Democrats are very much alarmed at the condition of their party in Missouri, as shown in the result of the spring elections in that State. Said a Democratic Senator to-day: "I was not particularly pleased by the result of the election in St. Louis, and I think that was bad enough, but I confess that I am not at all alarmed at the result of the election in the smaller cities throughout the State. I think the result is a fair sample of the State, and it makes me feel very uneasy."

REMARKS IN THE NAVY.

The commission of Paymaster-General of the Navy, as Chief of the Bureau of Provisions

and Clothing, will expire on August next, when he will be placed on the retired list and a new Paymaster will be appointed. Captain William D. Whiting, Chief of the Bureau of Navigation, will also probably be replaced, owing to physical disabilities. With these exceptions no changes in the Bureau offices of the Navy Department are now contemplated.

CHIEF CLERK OF THE AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

Mr. J. H. Paine, a clerk in the Agricultural Department, was to-day promoted by the Commissioner of Agriculture to the position of chief clerk to succeed General Carman. The latter has long been ambitious to succeed General Leduc as Commissioner of Agriculture. For this reason, probably, he has not worked harmoniously with the Commissioner, who, it is understood, this morning requested his resignation. Mr. Paine has had a long experience in the Department, and is familiar with its business.

SUFFERINGS IN DAKOTA.

Governor Ordway, of the Territory of Dakota, called upon the President to-day, and also upon the Secretary of War, to urge the importance of immediate assistance on the part of the Government to the citizens of Dakota who have been rendered homeless by the recent disastrous floods in that Territory. Governor Ordway represented the sufferings already endured, the utterly impoverished condition of the sufferers, and their inability to purchase supplies, and asked that the Secretary of War shall authorize the issue of Government rations, as was done at the time of the floods in Mississippi some years ago. The matter was referred to the President, who the Secretary of War, who promised to give it immediate attention. Secretary Lincoln telegraphed General Terry at St. Paul this afternoon to use his discretion in issuing and distributing supplies and clothing to the sufferers, and to permit the issue of food from the river from Pierre to Yankton and Vermilion, where the greatest destitution prevails.

THE OPPOSITION TO JUDGE ROBERTSON.

A friend of Senator Conkling who has been making a canvass of the Senate expresses the opinion that the following named Republican members of that body can be depended upon to vote against the confirmation of Judge Robertson: Senators Anthony, Cameron, of Pennsylvania, Conkling, Edmunds, Jones, of Nevada, Kellogg, Mitchell, Platt, of New-York, Rollins, Allison and Logan. This canvasser also thinks that Senator Mahone will vote against confirmation. The above list contains the names of several Senators who, their friends believe, will not follow Senator Conkling in his opposition to the Administration. A friend of General Logan said to-day that he did not believe that gentleman, who is on excellent terms with the President, would vote against Judge Robertson for the sake of obliging Mr. Conkling. Doubts are expressed regarding Mr. Edmunds, but a near friend of the Senator is of the opinion that he would vote for Judge Robertson's confirmation. Some surprise is expressed that Senators Allison and McDill should be counted against Judge Robertson.

WASHINGTON NOTES.

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, April 12, 1881.

The resignation of Second Lieutenant George W. Baxter, Third Cavalry, has been accepted by the President, to take effect July 1, 1881.

The United States Steamship Dispatch will leave here to-morrow for Fort Monroe and Yorktown, to be gone until Saturday. Secretary Blaine will be a guest upon the vessel, and at Mount Vernon will inspect the proposed site for the monument to be erected to the memory of George Washington.

Colonel John Hay, who has remained in Washington as assistant Secretary of the State, will take his departure to-morrow. It has been arranged that Mr. Hunter, the Second Assistant Secretary, shall sign official papers until Mr. Hay's return. Mr. Hay is expected to return to-day. He is the President of the Yorktown Association, called on Secretary Blaine, who, under the act of Congress, has control of the \$20,000 appropriated for the entertainment of the French visitors, and found him deeply interested in the matter. He informed Mr. Goode that it is his intention to accept a large number of guests for the reception and entertainment of those guests, and that so far as the State Department is concerned the programme will be worthy of the occasion.

NEW-JERSEY CHARTER ELECTIONS.

BALLOT-BOXES TAMPERED WITH IN JERSEY CITY—REPUBLICAN VICTORIES IN PERTH AMBOY, PATERSON AND CAMARPO—BAYONNE, CENTREVILLE AND BERGEN CITY DEMOCRATIC.

The charter elections held in Jersey City and Hoboken yesterday were conducted very quietly. In spite of the bitter personal character of the canvass, the vote was a very light one, and no serious disturbances occurred at any of the polling places. The registered number of voters was 25,447 in the city of Jersey City, and 1,000 in Hoboken. The combination of the two cities was caused in the morning by an attempt to stuff the ballot-boxes in two of the voting precincts of the 1st District. Police Commissioner John S. Smith, the Democratic candidate for Alderman against William H. Vermilye, entered the First Precinct Station at 5 a. m., and asked Sergeant Newton where the ballot boxes were kept that were to be used. He was told that they were in the private office of Captain Farrier. The Commissioner entered the office and began an examination of the ballot-boxes. He found that the boxes had been tampered with, and that the names of the voters had been written on the sides of the boxes with rubber bands and small sticks. In the First Precinct box were fifty-five Democratic tickets, with Vermilye's name pasted over that of Smith. In the other box were fifty-two Republican tickets. Mr. Smith at once sent for Chief of Police Murphy, who examined all the ballot-boxes, but found ballots in no others. "I had reason to suspect," said Commissioner Smith, "that some 'crooked' work would be done in the interest of Mr. Vermilye, and in fact it was. I am glad to say that the ballot-boxes were tampered with, but the result was a fair one. The voters of the First Precinct box were fifty-five Democratic tickets, with Vermilye's name pasted over that of Smith. In the other box were fifty-two Republican tickets. Mr. Smith at once sent for Chief of Police Murphy, who examined all the ballot-boxes, but found ballots in no others. 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